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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Membership dues in The Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors is \$3.00 per calendar year. Thanks to all who have sent in their 1978 membership renewals. For those of us who have not yet paid our 1978 dues (they have not been requested before now) please complete the enclosed form and send it with your \$3.00 to our Secretary-Treasurer:

Bruce Watt
1153 Northridge Street
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 3P3

OUR SYMPATHY: I recently received a note from Mrs. Maragaret Bruce that her husband, Jerome, passed away on October 21st, 1977. Our deepest sympathies to Jerome's family. Many of you will remember those beautiful hand-painted Indian wood pieces that Jerome did so well.

NEW MEMBERS: It has been some time since we listed our new members. The last membership number assigned was R-163. Hopefully the correct membership numbers will appear on our membership roster which is included with Timber Talk as space permits. Welcome to the CAWMC the following:

Harold Woodsworth
1674 Lancaster Crescent
Saskatoon, Sask. S7M 3V9

Ron Casavant
Box 2500
Nipawin, Sask. SOE 1E0

Clarence Blackwood
2031 Meadowbrook Lane
Marietta, Georgia, USA 30067

Gerald F. Tully
1061 Western Ave.
Peterborough, Ont. K9J 5W5

Mrs. E. Aldridge
Box 77
Cardston, Alta. TOK OKO

Leslie E. Salley
Box 248
Lake Crystal, Minn. USA 56055

R. (Bob) Semenoff
Shoppers Drug Mart-1500 Riverside Dr.
Timmins, Ontario P4N 7C3

Mrs. A. Macleod
68 Leroy Avenue.
Toronto, Ontario M4J 4G8

Ron Trainor c/o Magna Grip Manitoba
76 Nelson Road
Thompson, Manitoba R8N 0B6

Mander Rafuse
456 Jarvis St.
Oshawa, Ont. L1G 5L5

Stanley Clute
P. O. Box 672 - Stn. "B"
Willowdale, Ont. M2X 2P9

Henry Hilton
207 King Street
Monroe, N. C. USA 28110

Ron D. Drillen
Box 766
Geraldton, Ont.

Paul Greenberg
180 Jennifer Lane
Yonkers, N. Y. USA 10710

James E. Charlton
81 Victoria Park Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M4E 3S2

Roy Chobotuck
P. O. Box 292
Edmonton, Alta.

Charles Anfossi
Box 758, 778 Knight St.
Gillam, Manitoba R0B 0L0

M. J. Woodcock
CFS Yorkton
White Spruce, Sask. SOA 4N0

AUCTION: For the benefit of our new members and to refresh the memories of some of us who may have forgot, we are holding an auction this winter. Bruce Watt (address on Page 1) is again our auction Chairman. P L E A S E send Bruce some of your duplicate wood if you have not already done so. This is a combination donation and consignment auction. Be sure that you indicate which lots are being donated to the CAWMC and which are on consigned. The commission charged on consigned wood will be 20% of the first \$1.00 and 10% on the balance with 5¢ minimum charged per lot. Postage will be added to all lots mailed to the successful bidders. Any number of pieces can be grouped in one lot. Just advise Bruce.

MARK'S DISCOVERY: Mark Mogen of Calgary discovered a Victoria Pharmacy wood a couple of weeks ago. A photocopy of it appears below. It is red on both sides, thus the week copy. A lady carried the wood around in her purse for a number of years for good luck. The Victoria Pharmacy has been torn down and it is estimated that the wood is 5 - 10 years old. We are attempting to find out more about it and if we have any success the information will be printed in Timber Talk. Photos at bottom of this page. Ed.

U. S. WOOD- FREE: The Numismatic Association of Southern California have issued their NASC 1977/78 Wooden Twenty Three Cent Woods for their convention to be held in the L. A. Hilton February 9-11, 1978. The only cost is SASE and they always send two. Orders should be sent to:

NASC Corresponding Secretary

Carol A. Linn

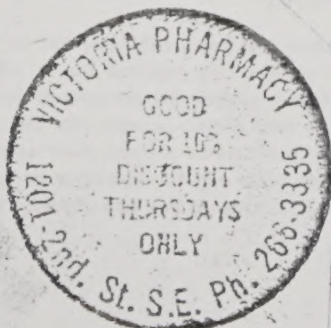
P. O. BOX 6477

Buena Park, California, U. S. A. 90620

1977 TERRACE FLATS: Last month we briefly described the set of three flats issued by the Terrace Downtown Lions Club commemorating Terrace's 50th Anniversary. Lion President Bob Larson (Terrace Downtown Lions Club - P. O. Box 245 - Terrace, B. C.) sent a description along with the set. The three pieces of wood and the write up by Nadine Asante appear on the next two pages. The cost for the set is \$2.50 from the Lions club. The funds raised will be used for the various Lions' projects.

"CANADIAN WOODEN MONEY AND TOKENS" BY NORM WELLS: is available from Norm at P. O. Box 943, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7A5 for \$6.50 + \$1.00 for postage. The book lists over 900 Canadian woods and has actual size photos. The book is 8 1/2" x 11" in size and contains 234 pages. Norm is to be congratulated on his work and I am sure every collector of Canadian wood will want to order one.

VANCOUVER: It's about 95% sure that I will be in Vancouver (Pacific Palisades Hotel - 1277 Robson Street) from January 16 - February 10, 1978 to attend a training course. I will endeavor to have the January issue of Timber Talk ready before I leave. If you happen to be writing to me during this time it will take awhile longer to receive a reply as I don't think I will be forwarding any mail.



VICTORIA
PHARMACY
...
CALGARY
ALBERTA



VIGNETTES by Nadine Asante

Author of "The History of Terrace"

\$50 BILL — KERMODEI BEAR

Indigenous to northwestern B.C., the Kermodei bear is a sub-species of black bear with a difference . . . it can be white.

It was believed until recently that the Kermodei bear was either an albino black bear or a type of Polar bear which had survived in this particular corner of the world since the ice age.

It has now been established that the Kermodei is definitely a black bear which boasts an unusually thick, greyish to silvery undercoat and sometimes, a white 'bib' which extends in a 'V' on the underside to the navel.

Thought to have originated on Princess Royal Island off B.C.'s north coast, the Kermodei has been sighted as far south as Bella Coola, east to the Hazelton vicinity and north to the headwaters of the Nass River.

Although no official research has been undertaken to date, local Terrace resident, Paul Schulte, is an authority who has studied the bear for over thirty years. He describes the Kermodei as being "very prolific, producing perhaps only one cub the first time but twins and sometimes triplets every second year thereafter. Cubs are either black with white bibs or pure white." He further describes the Kermodei as having greyish eyes instead of brown which is the primary identification, and apparently short legs because of the bear's particularly barrel-like body. Protected by law since the mid-1960s, a male Kermodei can tip the scales at almost 500 pounds.

Named after an Irish immigrant in the area at the turn of the century, the Kermodei now lends its name to many local endeavours such as sports teams, new buildings and of course stands proudly on the back of the souvenir \$50 bill to commemorate Terrace's 50th anniversary.

Only two Kermodei bears are known to be in captivity, one in a private zoo near Edmonton, Alberta, and the other in the zoo at Vancouver's Stanley Park.

\$20 BILL — LOGGING

Terrace and logging are synonymous.

Mills in the area had an unprosperous start. A portable mill, operated by two husband and wife teams cutting railway ties in 1906, lasted only a few months because of the dirth of machinery parts available for upkeep.

That short lived venture was followed by a succession of mills of various sizes but all with one purpose, to take advantage of the adjacent stands of prime timber including giant cedar, hemlock and the prized Sitka spruce used for aeroplane construction.

Fuel for hungry riverboat furnaces, and railway ties for the laying of rails for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway — the for-runner of the Canadian National which now bisects Terrace — were the first two products of Terrace mills. But soon, Terrace manufactured lumber was being shipped worldwide with the U.S. and Japan the biggest markets.

Wood chips are railed daily from Terrace mills one hundred miles west and forty miles south to pulp mills at Port Edward on the Pacific Ocean and to Eurocan in Kitimat.

Telephone poles lining highways all over North America hum with greetings from the forests of northwestern B.C. near Terrace but with the present cost of labour and the stands of cedar becoming more and more inaccessible and therefore costlier to transport to mills, Terrace is being hard pressed to maintain its reputation as the Cedar Pole Capital of the World.

\$10 BILL — RIVERBOATS

"She's like a temperamental mistress. You can't trust her", was the way one riverboat captain in 1908 described the Skeena River. And men who had piloted riverboats everywhere in North America from the Yukon to the Mississippi all agreed that the Skeena was the most turbulent and unpredictable river they had sailed. Notwithstanding, riverboat traffic along the Skeena was hot and heavy from the turn of the century until the famous Captain Bonser closed the last chapter of paddlewheelers on the Skeena when he steered the "inlander" downstream in October, 1912.

The first recorded riverboat on the Skeena was the "Union" out of Victoria in 1864 but Captain Tom Coffin was beaten back at the Skeena's first rapids. He tried again in 1865 and was defeated, but in 1866 Coffin was at the helm of a new sternwheeler, the "Mumford", which fought its way 110 miles inland from the Pacific. Nine miles east of the present sight of Terrace, Coffin was militantly stopped by the Kitselas Indians who controlled the canyon at that point but allowed to proceed when he convinced them his mission was peaceful.

The development of the coastal valleys from the east by the Hudson's Bay Company, and from the west — via the north and south — by former gold seekers from the Yukon, trappers, miners, and prospective homesteaders, increased the population along the Skeena. By 1906 there were many small settlements needing supplies. Names of the riverside residents, Swanson, Bates, Stuart and Thornhill became well-known riverboat landings between Port Essington on the coast and the present location of Terrace 93 miles inland. In 1907 at what is now the western perimeter of Terrace, a large hotel and warehouse were built to accommodate riverboat passengers and freight. In 1908 — a very good year for riverboats — as many as three of the sturdy ships could be seen passing, from the windows of the hotel.

Iron ringbolts were sunk in the rock walls of treacherous Kitselas Canyon, the sight of a few riverboat tragedies, so paddlewheel crew members could attach cables and actually winch their ships upstream. Descending the canyon was accomplished hind side first with the engines set at 'full ahead'.

It took two and a half to three days to make the 200 mile trip from the coast to Hazelton with many stops to pick up fuel for the furnaces. (and sometimes unscheduled stops for the river to rise to allow the ships to proceed over the riffles, although a fully loaded boat only drew two feet of water!)

Many families depended on cutting riverboat cordwood in four foot lengths for their entire annual finances.

The river became a race track for several captains and one such competition for the fastest trip was settled in court when a captain rammed the ship of his competitor.

Best remembered episode of the eventful riverboat days was when the "Mount Royal" sank in Kitselas Canyon in July of 1906. Rumours were rampant that a fortune in gold lay at the bottom of the river in the vessel's strongbox. She was said to be carrying the payroll of the Hudson's Bay Company employees plus hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of gold nuggets. The Skeena will most likely hold that secret forever. An integral part of B.C.'s colourful and romantic past, the sternwheelers have sailed forever into the mists of bygone days.

The riverboats expedited their own demise when they carried supplies for the men building the railway which was to put them out of operation.

But old timers still talk with nostalgia of the days when the piercing screech of the air horn and the throbbing of the wood energized engines heralded the approach of the first riverboat of the season . . . just beyond the bend.

